

# THE Gateway

University of Nebraska at Omaha

## Black Studies chairman quits



Lafontant

As of March 19, UNO's Black Studies Department will be without a chairman.

Julien Lafontant has resigned the chairmanship he has held since 1977, and has asked to be completely removed from the Black Studies Department. He said he would like to teach French and French literature in the Foreign Language Department.

Lafontant was criticized by black community leaders in 1984 when he supported proposals to reduce the department to a program. He maintained that Black Studies would remain the object of attempted cost-cutting measures that might eventually do away with the department unless the action were taken.

Continuing criticism and insults from black community leaders were his main reasons for resigning, he said.

Although he said he is proud of being black, Lafontant said some in the black community considered him a "black foreigner" because of his West Indian background, and some said he was not black at all. "I hated that," he said.

The NU Board of Regents will hear the recommendation to change Lafontant's affiliation from the Black Studies Department and to eliminate Chairperson from his title during tomorrow's meeting.



Scot Shugart

### They've got it all

Brian Conroy of the Outdoor Venture Center checks out the gear in the Center's supply room. They've got everything you need for your next trip. Check it out for yourself at Room 100 in the HPER Building.

## Nebraskan helped Africans help themselves

By JOHN MALNACK II

"It's very dangerous, very, not dangerous, it's deathly there. If you don't get water, the desert just (gets bigger) every year."

This was how retired foreign-service officer Ed Segall described the situation facing millions of starving North and sub-Saharan Africans. Segall spoke about African famine before about 25 people Tuesday night at the Swanson Library in Omaha. His appearance was sponsored by Common Cause/Nebraska, part of the national political lobbying group.

Segall, a Nebraska native and Creighton University graduate, began his 30-year career as a U.S. Foreign Service officer in 1949.

U.S. State Department aid for Africa has two primary goals, Segall said. "One is to keep people from dying by providing them with food immediately, he said. Secondly, 'we try to teach and help them by teaching them simple irrigation techniques and providing them with the equipment to grow their own food,' he added. "We call it 'special self-help.'"

During his tenure in the State Department Segall was responsible for the Food for Peace Program for Black Africa. He related the story of an irrigation technique introduced to Africans along the Niger River. The program, which Segall called "irrigation perimeters," allowed residents of Mali to harness some of the river water in small reservoirs, where it could be stored and used when needed, enabling the people to irrigate small plots of land to grow corn, millet and many other grains for the first time, he said.

"They don't have enough money to buy pipes... and a pump to get the water that's just running by and going on the Niger River off into the sea. The water is wasted," Segall said.

"That's what we try to do to help them. We bought them small little pumps, maybe \$300, \$500, something like that, and the pipes. And they did everything else themselves," he said.

"It's not just a giveaway program. It was exciting to watch them do that, and I always like to think we helped."

U.S. aid also entails reforestation programs, Segall said. He said he was involved in tree-planting programs designed to halt expansion of the Sahara Desert. "What we try to do, along with irrigation, is to get... tree shoots and put them in the ground. Because, every day, the people need branches to cook their food, and they've got to go farther and farther just to find wood."

"As soon as we teach them a little bit, help them a little bit, they're on their own. And I'm sure if I go back there today, the trees we planted five years ago, the irrigation ditches that they made, are still going strong." The money the United States spends to aid Africa is not wasted, Segall said.

African droughts are cyclical, Segall said, but when it rains regularly for a few years, the people tend to increase the size of their herds and overgraze the land. Then, when a drought hits, the people are left even worse off than before, he said.

"If they have three good years, they think the good years are going to continue and continue. We have food stations in the desert, because this year it's not for feeding cattle, it's for the babies and to keep people alive," he said.

U.S. aid for Africa is less associated with military interests than aid to Central America, according to Segall. "In Central America, right or wrong, they say, 'Oh boy, the Russians are coming, the Cubans are coming, and it's really (considered) strategic. In Africa, we don't really have any strategic targets,



Segall

and the Russians aren't there trying to find strategic targets. Thus, U.S. aid is not given to Africa because of so-called 'ulterior motives,' Segall said.

Another problem plaguing West Africans, especially in the area known as Spanish Sahara, is continual warfare, he said. Segall called the nations of this area "the poorest of the poor" of the continent because the land is almost completely barren.

When he was involved in Africa in the mid-1970s, Segall said, he supervised a program that distributed a \$2-million fund among 20 nations. "Ten years later it's three-and-a-half-million dollars," he said. "That's no big deal. I mean, you could take one MX (missile), and you could have enough assistance that would really help out."

One listener asked why more African leaders do not visit Washington, D.C. and more actively seek U.S. aid. Segall answered that African leaders do campaign for aid from the United States and the World Bank, for example, but they do not receive much publicity. "Who's going to read about, say, the president of Mali? Who cares about the president of Mali? Who cares about the president of Mali or the President of Upper Volta?" asked Segall. A Middle Eastern official visiting the United States receives more press coverage because "he's got big oil money," Segall said. "These people are poor."

U.S. aid to Africa also involves some family-planning education, Segall said. Part of the reason for the burgeoning population of Africa is that "every person there wants to have a male follower," he said. "They try to have as many babies as they can because they know, as many as 25 to 40 percent will die before they are 5 years old," he said.

Despite occasional transportation problems and the difficulty of ensuring that sufficient food reaches war-torn areas such as Eritrea in Ethiopia, Segall said 75 to 80 percent of African aid reaches its intended recipients.

## Plant Management director may assume new duties

By DAN PRESCHER

Tomorrow the University of Nebraska Board of Regents will consider the appointment of Neil A. Morgensen as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance and Director of Facilities Management and Planning.

If approved, Morgensen will assume some of the duties of departing Associate Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance John A. Moore, who has accepted a position as Controller with Kansas State University.

According to the University



Morgensen

Relations Office, Morgensen had already assumed some of those duties in his current position as Director of Plant Management, a position he has held since 1981. Morgensen came to UNO in 1978 as Superintendent of Construction.

Moore's old position will be changed to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance/Director of Finance. His successor had not been named as of Tuesday.

University Relations officials also said the proposed reorganization entails making Campus Security, presently part of Business Services, part of the new Facilities Management and Planning office. Director of Campus Security Dave Castilow would then have a co-lateral position with Assistant Director of Plant Management George C. Money. Both would work out of Morgensen's department.

The proposed adjustment of Morgensen's position is described in the Board of Regents March 16 agenda as a "title

and salary change for added responsibility." The new position would raise Morgensen's salary from \$43,250 per year to \$47,450 per year, effective March 18; a raise of \$4,200.

When asked why there had been no advanced notice of the change until the Board of Regents' agenda was released, Terry Tobin of University Relations said she had just learned of it Tuesday morning.

When contacted Tuesday for a faculty response, Faculty Senate President Bruce Garver said he hadn't been aware of the proposal, but thought that the Faculty Senate should have been informed. He said he didn't know what action, if any, would be taken at the Faculty Senate meeting March 13.

Both Morgensen and Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Gary L. Carrico were unavailable for comment Tuesday. Castilow and Eugene Beckman, director of Business Services, declined to comment.



# Forensics team talks its way to national tournaments

By KEVIN COLE

Those fast-talking, smooth-sounding members of the UNO Forensics team have continued to build on their most successful season ever.

After traveling some 3,000 miles delivering its pater of impromptu, informative and interpretive speeches, the team won its fourth Sweepstakes trophy for best overall performance March 2 at the Wayne State tournament and has now qualified 10 of its 23 members for national tournaments.

Duane Aschenbrenner, the forensics team coach, thinks this is the best UNO squad he's seen since coming here in 1963.

"We've had a lot of good teams in the 22 years I've been here," Aschenbrenner said. "But I know we have never had a year where we had so many students excel in so many different events."

By design, versatility is the hallmark of the UNO team. "We encourage them to be in at least three events — concentrate on a couple — and when they're doing well add a third event," Aschenbrenner said.

Senior John Ryan has been the best example of this philosophy. Ryan has qualified for both the American Forensic Association (AFA) meet April 12-14 at Townsend State in Baltimore, Md., and the National Forensic Association (NFA) tournament at Marshall in Huntington, W.Va., April 26-29.

Ryan has qualified in four categories for the AFA tournament which is regarded as the more difficult of the two. He has qualified in persuasive speaking, prose, dramatic interpretation and dramatic duo.

Three other team members have each qual-

ified in two events for the AFA meet: Bryan Howell, impromptu and extemporaneous speaking; MaryAnn Danielson, impromptu and informative speaking; and Jerry Shavlik, prose and poetry.

Ryan said the team's versatility has been the catalyst for its recent strong showings. "We have confidence in all of our categories and speakers," he said. "And now we're the ones other schools are aiming at to shoot off the top."

Other qualifiers for the AFA tournament are Donna Aschoff for poetry and Rita Cotton for dramatic duo.

To reach the AFA tournament a student must place in the finals of at least three tournaments during the year that have a minimum of 10 schools competing. Additionally, the number of students qualifying for each event depends upon the number of entrants in each event.

For example, if there are 14 students in an event, only the top finisher would qualify for the national tournament. If 20-24 students are entered the top three would qualify.

Students may also reach AFA nationals through the district tournament, but graduate assistant Fred Naumann noted that the competition at district is "stiff" and difficult for a lot of "new qualifiers to break into the national tournament on one shot."

UNO has qualified 10 of its students for the NFA tournament. Each of the six team members who met the standards for AFA are eligible to attend and Tracy Wernsman, Tom Barr, Peg Reilly and Hillary Tripp have made the grade as well.



Scot Shugart

Dawn Brackett, left, and Jim Bitzes discuss curling irons in duet practice.

Aschenbrenner said the success of the forensics team has added benefits for its coaches aside from the obvious team pride it bestows.

"If you have people in every final, you don't have to judge them because you can't judge your own students," Aschenbrenner said.

And while winning tournaments and consist-

ently placing above teams such as Creighton, Kansas State and UNL is sweet, it's not the major motivation for Aschenbrenner and Naumann.

"It's nice to win tournaments," Aschenbrenner reflects. "But it's even nicer to see students develop."

## University rules prohibit 'Spanker' ads on campus

By SUSAN KUHLMANN

If signs and flyers advertising "Spanker" parties seem more prevalent than any others around UNO, there's a reason. Those signs are not posted in conformity with regulations.

In fact, according to Terry Forman, student activities advisor, it is not merely the way they are posted, but that they are posted at all which is against University policy.

Forman said the policy prohibits advertising parties across state lines where alcoholic beverages are served.

"Where they have it (the party) is entirely up to them," he said. Forman noted that the Carter Lake Warehouse, where All-School Spanker parties are frequently held, is a good location

because of its size and acoustics.

However, the problem is the two-year difference in the legal drinking age. The legal drinking age in Iowa is 19.

He said if Iowa raises its drinking age in July the policy will be changed this fall.

When asked about checking IDs at the parties, Forman said although he was not sure, he thought the Warehouse would be responsible. "I doubt it if they check IDs," Forman said.

Forman said he didn't think UNO could be held responsible for any injury that occurred at one of these parties. He said he thought whoever signed the contract would be responsible.

Erick Daiker, a former Spanker, said he and a friend started throwing parties about three years ago and adopted the nickname "Spankers" for themselves. The parties were then held at McCormack's. He said they branched out to form SPK Productions.

When asked about parties, Daiker said he was no longer involved and had not been for about two years. He added he'd never been involved with those at the Carter Lake Warehouse, and was "not too sure" who, if anyone, checked IDs there.

A current Spanker, who asked to remain anonymous, said Spankers would offer no comment.

**THE GATEWAY**  
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summer/fall 1985

The UNO Publications Committee is looking for a responsible, aggressive individual to manage a staff of seven other paid employees on the advertising staff. A knowledge of basic advertising sales, layout and rates suggested, but not required.

Pay is based on a commission of all advertising purchased in the bi-weekly newspaper (approx. \$3,000 a semester). Selection will be made April 8, 1985.

For more information or applications, contact the Gateway office at 554-2470, Annex 17.

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for the summer and fall semesters are now  
available in Annex 17.

*Applicants should be familiar with the  
guidelines for the student press adopted by the  
Nebraska Board of Regents.*  
(Copies available upon request.)

Deadline: Wednesday, April 3, 1985 at 2 p.m.

Selection meeting: Monday, April 8, 1985

from 12-1:30, Board Room, MBSC

Salary: 1,000 (summer); \$1,800 (fall)

**For more information or applications, contact  
Rosalie at The Gateway, 554-2470, or stop by Annex 17.**



# What's Next

*Let your voice be heard*

The NU Board of Regents will hold an "open forum" at 2:30 p.m. today at Regents Hall, 3835 Holdredge Street, Lincoln. Any interested students wishing to address their concerns or suggestions are invited to attend. A van will leave UNO at 1 p.m. for the forum. If interested, contact the Student Government Office, 554-2620, Room 134 in the Student Center.

The regular monthly Regents meeting will begin tomorrow, March 16, at 8 p.m. at Regents Hall.

## The changing relationship

Herb Goldberg, a California State University professor of psychology, will conduct a seminar tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. on traditional and changing male-female relationships. Goldberg will hold an in-depth seminar on this subject tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both seminars will be held at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam Street. Friday's presentation costs \$7 per person, Saturday's seminar costs \$30, not including lunch. For more information or to register call 554-2755.

## Insurance deadline

Today is the deadline to sign up for the Keystone Accident and Health Insurance policy for students. Cost is \$110 for six months. For further information contact the Student Health Office, Room 132 in the Student Center, 554-2374.

## For the wee ones

UNO Campus Recreation will sponsor "Wearing of the Green," a children's program, tomorrow, March 16, from noon to 2 p.m. in Room 200 of the HPER Building. The event is open to 5-through-12-year-olds (who are children of current UNO students, faculty and staff) free of charge. For more information or to register, call 554-2539 or visit HPER, Room 100.

## Two-wheelin' it

"Bicycle Commuting in Omaha" the next program in the Outdoor Perspectives series

will be held March 17 in HPER Room 102. Bob Wolfe of the Outdoor Venture Center will discuss safety tips and other advantages of using a bicycle for transportation beginning at 7 p.m.

Wolfe will also be available soon to evaluate bicycles for UNO students, faculty and staff free of charge. To get your bike examined, sign up in HPER Room 100 or call 554-2539 for an appointment.

## Violin and piano

Leonid Levin, Omaha Symphony concertmaster, and Harold Payne, assistant professor of music at UNO, will give a violin and piano concert March 17 at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Recital Hall. Levin and Payne will perform works by Beethoven, Ysaye, Franck and Brandao. The concert is free.

## Public poetry

Poet Madeline DeFrees will give a poetry writing workshop and a public reading at UNO next week. On March 19, DeFrees will conduct a poetry writing workshop in Arts and Sciences Hall Room 289 at 6 p.m. March 20 she will read from her work in the Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Both events, sponsored by the Writer's Workshop, are free and open to the public.

## Looking for work?

"Springboard to Employment," the 1985 Summer Jobs Fair, will be held March 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The fair is designed to bring students and local employers together to discuss summer employment opportunities. Jobs in manufacturing, retail sales, camp and recreation, labor and health care are available with salaries ranging from \$3.50 to \$8 per hour. Some jobs may extend beyond the summer.

Admission to the fair is free, with entry tickets available in last Wednesday's or today's Gateway or at the door.

## Chinese workout

Today is the last day to register for "Revitalization: The Chinese Way."

Rong Rong Zhou of Shanghai, China, will teach you the Chinese way of enhancing your physical and mental health. Topics include characteristics of Chinese exercise, nutrition and diet tips, body energy points, and Chinese philosophies, life schedule and family styles.

Cost for the Tuesday and Thursday class is \$25. The first class will be held March 19 from noon to 12:50 in HPER Room 202. Registration is limited to UNO students, faculty, staff, spouses or Medical Center activity-card holders. Register in HPER Room 100.

## Songweaving

Jim Newton, songweaver and story teller, will perform in the Student Center Ballroom Wednesday, March 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The free concert is sponsored by United Christian Ministries in Higher Education.

## Think theology

A representative from San Francisco Theological Seminary will be available March 21 at the University Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow Blvd. Those interested in attending a seminary can visit the representative from 9 to 11 a.m.

## Secretarial seminar

The 32nd annual "Seminar for Today's Secretary" will be held March 21 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 13th and Farnam Streets. The seminar is meant to help secretaries keep up-to-date on changes in the field.

Registration is \$39, including seminar materials, coffee breaks and lunch. For more information on the conference, sponsored by the College of Continuing Studies and the College of Education, call 554-2391.

## Sales secrets for women

A two-day seminar, "Women in Sales," will be held March 21 and 22 at the Kiewit Conference Center, 13th and Farnam Streets. The seminar, designed to help sales professionals improve their skills, is sponsored by UNO's

Center for Professional and Organizational Development. The fee is \$295, with a 10 percent discount for organizations sending three or more people. For more information or to register, call 554-2451.

## A dance to Nebraska

The Moving Company, UNO's modern dance troupe, will perform "Early Nebraska" in the University Theater, Arts and Sciences Hall. Shows start at 8 p.m. March 22 and 23 and 4 p.m. March 24. Admission is \$2 for students and senior citizens and \$4 for the general public.

## What a racquet!

March 19 is the deadline to sign up for the 1985 Maverick Racquetball Classic, to be held March 22 through 24. There is a \$21 entry fee for the first event and \$12 for the second. UNO students with a valid ID can register for \$18.

All entrants must be current National Racquetball Association members, but participants may join or renew their memberships for an extra \$5. Entry fees include a Maverick Classic shirt, door prizes, refreshments and use of the HPER building. To enter, call 554-2539.

## See the scores

First editions of music by Bach, Handel and Scarlatti will be on display in the UNO Art Gallery until March 22. The Bach-Handel-Scarlatti Tricentennial Exhibit also includes a manuscript by Felix Mendelssohn.

The exhibit is sponsored in conjunction with Broadcast Music, Inc. and can be viewed during regular gallery hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or a special showing, contact Nancy Kelly at the Art Gallery, 554-2686.

## Mutual support

Adult Children of Alcoholics meet every Wednesday at noon in the Student Center State Room. The support group is intended to help participants express their feelings and find peace.

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## Revitalization: The Chinese Way A Cross Cultural Experience of Exercise and Fitness

Professor Rong Rong Zhou of East Normal University will be presenting a new experience to learn a proper and simple way to creative fitness and health. The format is designed to enhance the physical and mental state of the human body.

Begins: March 19  
Meets: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00-12:50 p.m. (10 sessions)  
Where: HPER 202  
Fee: \$25.00

Registration deadline: March 15. Class is limited to 20.

For more information contact UNO Campus Recreation, HPER, 100  
554-2539. Sponsored by UNO Campus Recreation.



# Comment

## Federal blackmail

I guess the end really does justify the means. Or so it would seem, judging from our government's conduct as it continues to shove things "for our own good" right down our throats.

Examples abound. As of this writing, five states have enacted laws requiring the mandatory use of seat belts by motorists. For our own safety, of course. Funny thing, though, the federal government has declared that unless two-thirds of the states enact such laws, the states run the risk of losing their federal highway funds.

Another example: raising the legal drinking age to 21, a measure I personally favor. But I can't stomach blackmailing states to enact this legislation with the threat of lost highway funds.

A potent weapon, those millions and billions of dollars of highway support. And the feds know it. And use it, poisoning the loss of these funds above the states' heads like an anvil.

Blackmailing the states with the taxpayers' own money is nothing new to the feds. To this day, periodic movements (such as the one sponsored by State Sen. Ernie Chambers) in state legislatures to increase speed limits on highways are doomed to failure because, once again, the feds threaten to yank highway funds.

I hate the 55-mph speed limit. Without fail, if I drive Nebraska's arrow-straight roads at 55, I'm virtually hypnotized into sleep. If I crank her up to 65 or 70, I'm alert and enjoy the ride to boot.

I hope Chambers' bill, which he always introduces, will one year pass. But, because of federal blackmail, I know it won't.

Oh, sure, wearing seat belts is good for us. And yes, many under-21-year-olds are irresponsible drinkers. As for the 55-mph speed limit, I've seen as many studies saying it hasn't saved lives as those that say it has. But, whether it's for my own good or not, I hate to be blackmailed. That's not democracy, is it?

—JOHN MALNACK II

"...FOR MEN WERE BORN TO PRAY AND SAVE;  
ROMANTIC IRELAND'S DEAD AND GONE,  
IT'S WITH O'LEARY IN THE GRAVE."  
—W.B. YEATS



## Hackish Musings by Kevin Cole

## Faith and begorra

Ah, me wee ones. Isn't it a fine, fine, weekend we are about to embark upon? Don't it make your Irish blood bubble and your legs feel like dancing a jig with the sainted day of Patrick's looming big as the udders of an un milked cow?

I thought as much. No one with a bit of Irish blood can turn his back on such a grand celebration as is produced each March 17.

Even those with the terrible misfortune not to be able to claim kinship to the Emerald Isle are apt to join in the shenanigans of the day. And who can blame them?

Blown by the winds of spring, the good day arrives none too soon after the miserable occupation of another winter and more is the joy in the Gaelic heart to have such an oppressor (only a little less unwelcome than the bloody British invaders) finally on the run and the season of courtships, trout fishing and potato planting at hand.

It does me poor heart good just to contemplate the day, which generally I begin to do about a week after Christmas. Sure, and this coming from one who can only claim half-Irish ancestry (from Finnegan and Riley links to the old sod).

Some will say the American-Irish have invented a tradition of their own with little or no ties to our ancestral homeland. In Ireland, it's argued, St. Patrick's Day is a holy day something like Easter here. There are clan gatherings and pints of Guinness

raised to be sure, but none of the wild pub goings-on that are so prevalent here.

We American-Irish are simply trying to cram into one day what the grand folk of the old country take for granted in their everyday living.

Whether we have "bastardized" the good saint's day is for the Shanachies to argue. It is all that we have for the most part and undoubtedly we shall continue to bask in the traditions we've created for good or ill. Besides, isn't that the nature of the American that he became the world's bastard with the borrowing of traditions from old-world ties and the addition of our own queer way of doing things?

The Irish tradition in Omaha is a rich one. We have our fine Irish mayor in Michael Boyle, don't we now? Besides that piece of luck, we're blessed with a goodly number of folks claiming Irish ancestry and numerous Irish pubs to boot.

I can never decide where to begin the day first so I usually begin by holding a small gathering in me wee home. About you're liable to find O'Connors, Muldoons, Vaughans and any number of folk from good Irish stock.

After a few glasses of ale and maybe a few drops of Tullamore Dew or Jameson, it's off to the pub circuit for us. In recent years the only change in this pattern has been to seek out a fainter-hearted soul with no stomach for the drink to serve as

a navigator and head counter as we ply the friendly seas of green.

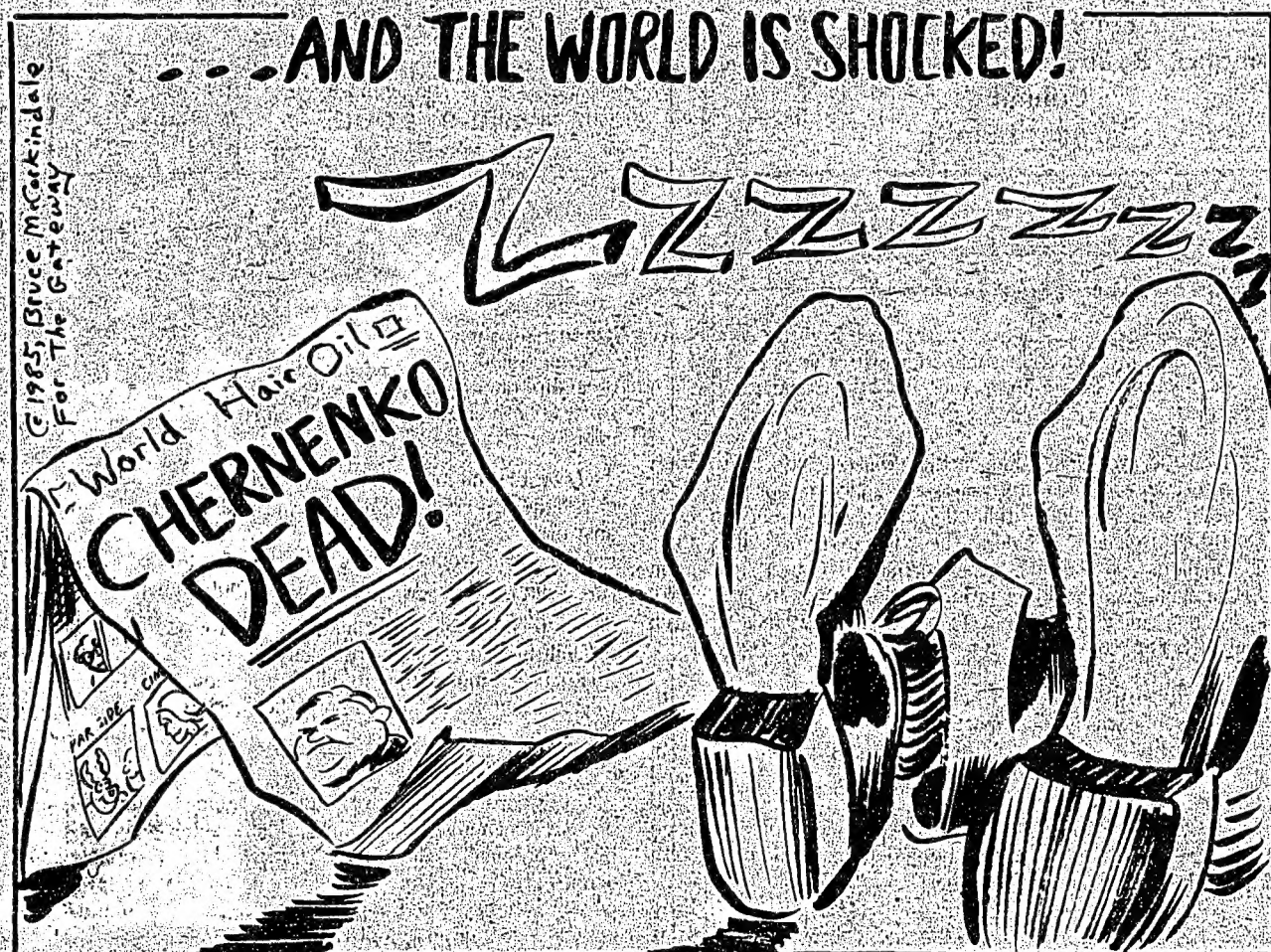
The order of procedure from there on is never rigid. As good Irishmen should, we follow the whims of our heart. But there are a few places we never miss.

For starters there's Sullivan's bar near 42nd and Farnam Streets. The good man Sullivan no longer owns the place, but we drink to his memory just the same. Nearby on Dodge Street there is the Dundee Dell, and by the time we arrive there we usually head straight away to the green-festooned juke box to help dear old Bing Crosby (bless his departed soul) croon "Tur-alooraloorah" and "Sister Kate."

On then we sail to other ports, the Dubliner and Clancy's among them. Either one, like all the rest, is liable to surrender many a sweet kiss from the young colleens and hearty handshakes and song with the likes of past Gateway editors Kevin Quinn and Joe Brennan.

Sure and then it's off to the St. Pat's dance at Holy Name parish. If we're lucky we arrive in time to hear Tom Lahood sing "Danny Boy" like only he can. And suddenly the wellspring of Irish sentiment streaks its salty stain down our cheeks and another March 17 has come and gone too soon.

Faith and begorra laddie. Now who wouldn't want to be part of such a lovely day as that?



### The Gateway

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Letters exceeding two (2) typewritten pages will be considered editorial commentary and are subject to the above criteria.

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## Op Ed -

## 'Ugliest of all sports' should 'go down for the count'

By COLMAN MCCARTHY

Washington — "There's a time to quit" is the enduring adage in boxing. Only a few fighters know when to walk out before they get carried out or zonked out. For the defenders of boxing, quitting is also the question. The time is now.

Like cornermen not realizing their staggering man is about to go down for the count, boxing boosters are now confronted with the American Medical Association. The doctors, facing long-available facts, have called for the abolition of both professional and amateur boxing. In calling for a ban on what the sportswriter Jimmy Cannon saw as "the ugliest of all sports," the AMA correctly focused the issue as one of health, safety and deliberate violence. Dr. Joseph Boyle, the AMA president, said that "It seems to us an extraordinarily incongruous thing that we have a sport in which two people are literally paid to get into a ring and try to beat one another to death, or at least beat (one another) into a state of senselessness, which will leave them permanently brain-damaged."

Instead of counterpunching to that fact, the defenders of boxing become bobbers and weavers who swing back wildly with arguments that have nothing to do with the deadliness of boxing. They offer three:

— Boxing is the route to Easy Street. Teaching ghetto kids how to brain-batter each other is presented as a way out of the ghetto. Look at Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler and the others who fought up from poverty to the world of moneyed dudehood and diamond pinky rings. Where do these

rich doctors get off denying opportunity to the poor? If you let the defenders of boxing talk on, they would present prizefighting as superior to Job Corps, Head Start and the Job Training Partnership Act put together.

Despite rare exceptions like a Leonard or Hagler, the AMA believes that brain damage and other neurological disorders are common among the nation's estimated 10,000 professional boxers. Riches? They have gone from rags to stupor.

The escape-from-poverty argument begs with another question. What about the young women of the ghetto? Perhaps they should seek the welterweight title in mud wrestling and all its millions?

— Ban coal mining, not boxing. Because other trades are more injurious than boxing, it is said, why don't the AMA and other tenderhearts go after them? Two reasons exist for singling out boxing. It is a sport with lethality built into it. The object is to injure or kill. The fight crowd dances around that fact by saying, no, the object is to win. That's akin to arguing that the object of sky-diving is not the art of the fall but defeating the earth should you hit it chute unopened.

Boxing is not like coal mining — nor football, hockey or other dangerous professions — because the fighters receive few of the normal job protections. Coal miners can get black lung benefits. As yet, battered-brain benefits are not available to boxers. Last year in hearings on the Federal Boxing Protection Act before the House Subcommittee on Labor Standards, Rep. Pat Williams (D-Mont.) spoke about the absence of pension plans, insurance, profit sharing and unions for the endangered boxer.

"This country needs to protect one of the few remaining workers who are unprotected . . . (He) is involved in one of America's most perilous occupations and yet remains virtually unprotected with regard to any legal sanctions."

— The AMA should mind its own business. This is a pet argument of Bert Sugar, the former publisher and editor of Ring magazine and a wearer of the championship belt for lyricizing about "the heroes, thrills and memorable moments" of boxing. When I discussed the AMA decision with Sugar, he grumbled that the doctors are elitists, the AMA represents only half of the nation's physicians and the organization was socially regressive for its past opposition to some health programs. What all that had to do with health, safety and violence, the bitter Sugar didn't say.

He wasn't, overly game, either, for a discussion of the impoverished families, widows and orphans and others who have mourned at hundreds of requiems for heavyweights and featherweights.

Sugar, companionable and quick-witted when you get him off the subject of human beings bashing each other, testified last year before Congress on the boxing protection act. He called for a reform of the sport as it is overlorded by the self-serving World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council. Sugar wants help from Congress to reform the sleazy, exploitive and violent fight racket.

The AMA solution is sounder: Ban it. Trying to reform boxing is like trying to clean a toxic waste dump with a drop of Listerine.

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## Boxing should be saved as a reflection of our nature

When Howard Cosell shocked the sports world by adding his voice to the throng already calling for a total ban on the sport of boxing in this country, it became apparent that his age-worn memory had grown worse than those of the punch-drunk fighters he sought to protect.

After a quarter of a century as the most prominent boxing journalist in the world (deservedly), Cosell now believes that the entire sport should be thrown away. Either his mind has gone, or he contributed to an American tragedy for personal gain, though it could be a little of both.

Cosell aside, other respectable, disinterested parties, notably the American Medical Association, have taken public positions in favor of banning boxing. Certainly the empirical evidence indicates a problem, but the legitimate concerns for health need not translate into abolition of the most basic sport in which humans engage. Regulation of rankings, certification of referees and mandatory use of equipment are a few steps that would reduce the incidence of injury in boxing. These should be tried before depriving society of such an important part of the human experience.

Some will howl at such a statement as nonsense. A spokesman for the AMA recently appeared on a broadcast of *Fronline* that dealt with the boxing controversy. While the doctor's expertise in human biology is noted, he repeatedly referred to "civilization" in a way that connoted the gradual perfecting of our species over time. He compared boxing to ancient gla-

diatorial games, condemning our reversion through the legality of boxing. This perverse belief is the real nonsense.

Boxing is the quintessence of man's relationship to man. Technology has spread. Knowledge has piled upon knowledge; however, the human is born and born and born, newly each time. Each one moves in a natural cycle from conception to death, learning along the way all the hard lessons a living thing must learn. Personal growth will be every bit as painful for babies today as it was 5,000 years ago. Just because the vehicles of learning have changed doesn't mean the process or organism has.

Intellectual storehouses of knowledge and superficial tools which provide us with a modern lifestyle do nothing to change the bestial nature of man. Boxing belongs to us and we belong to boxing.

Of course, boxing entails hazards, but so do a dozen or more other sports. No, the object of boxing is not to injure or kill the opponent. People who say such things are ignorant of the sport and what it takes to become a boxer, or else they are projecting their own criminal intentions into the minds of athletes.

Properly trained boxers defeat and discipline themselves long before they ever confront another fighter in the ring. By force of will, they make themselves better than they were. If doctors object to poor training, then they should attack the problem where it exists rather than dismiss a whole sport. After all, boxers aren't required to take the Hippocratic oath.

It is pertinent to ask, "Why the excessive concern about boxing?" Far more people die in football games. What about real life? Far more people die in slums. Shouldn't they be outlawed? What drives so many do-gooders to intervene if they can on behalf of the boxer? If the graphic exhibition of human conflict offends them, let them turn their energies to real and serious problems.

Slums, for instance, are far deadlier than boxing yet are a product of the same primeval instinct.

The boxer seeks to score more points than his opponent by striking certain areas of the opponent's body in prescribed ways while avoiding the blows his opponent returns. Outside of this it is raw war. Two virtually naked men use wits and physical ability to dominate, and one or the other will win. Indeed, the rules and equipment make boxing quite humane.

Slums afford no such protection. Lawlessness is law in the street. That is why so many boxers come from slum areas. Even if 85 percent of them do have hemorrhages in their brains, they have a better understanding of the natural laws of human interaction than doctors with bleeding hearts. They know the same laws that drive them to shuffle and jab in the ring also created the filthy world they come from through the juking and jiving for profit by businessmen.

However, businessmen injure, and kill with impunity because the blood they draw doesn't spatter across their three-piece suits. But their distance makes it no less on their hands. We all submit to the natural antagonistic relation-

ship that defines survival.

One thing dies that another may live in nature. This inviolable natural law applies to us despite our usual forgetfulness that even UNO cafeteria food was once alive, that the blue jeans we wear were once waving in southern winds atop cotton plants, that the footballs kicked and thrown about Memorial Stadium were probably carved from the outside of some farm child's pet pig.

Precisely, we are organisms among the billions on this planet, struggling for survival against all the forces around us, most of which are fighting for their own lives. Struggle goes on not only between species but also within. Thus individual humans make wars, big and little. Anyone in doubt of this should check a daily newspaper for accounts of the most recent crimes, political schemes and business transactions.

Boxing distills the bellicose state we live in. Better than any other sport, it institutionalizes what survival means. Naive notions about civilizing the man-beast and his environment fall short of changing the essence of either. Simply put, all the razor blades, soap, freeze-drying, canning and drive-through restaurant lanes won't change the animals that we are.

Unlike other animals though, we have a profound ability to reflect on ourselves. Boxing needs to be preserved as a reflection of our nature with all its capacity for beauty and ugliness, victory and defeat, and yes, friendship and animosity.

—J. FRANK AULT

## Letters

## Commission report called 'substandard research'

## To the Editor:

I hope these remarks will clarify the alleged inaccuracies contained within the now well-known Citizens Commission for the State of Higher Education report *Towards the 21st Century*. To that end, my comments will only concern the parts of the report that deal with research contributions from each of the University of Nebraska system campuses.

Let me reassert, in a slightly altered manner, Brad Kaciewicz's central allegation regarding the aforementioned report: that many of UNO's ongoing research efforts were omitted from the Citizens Commission report. Taken strictly at face value, this assertion is absolutely correct. Anyone who reads the pertinent discussions of UNO's research activities contained in *Towards the 21st Century* will agree with Mr. Kaciewicz's and my allegation.

What should be of greater concern and interest to UNO students, faculty and administration is how this fundamentally erroneous (and detrimental) overview of UNO research could have been incorporated into a formal research report assembled by a privately funded group, the Citizens Commission. I will not attempt to suggest reasons why such a precursory relation of UNO's research efforts was compiled. However, Citizens Commission Assistant Director Andrew Cunningham's explanation

that the UNO research listing was derived from the University Central Administration, in connection with the UNO Chancellor's Office, is at best a poor excuse for a substandard research effort.

Given the profound influence that *Toward the 21st Century* will exert when University issues are addressed in the Legislature, it seems probable that the report will, at one extreme, do nothing to aid UNO, and at the other extreme, will confirm the opinions and attitudes of some that UNO is a short jump up from high school, adding nothing to the University as a whole. In the final analysis, the report doesn't portray UNO research equitably, fairly or accurately.

The Citizens Commission knew, or should be charged with the knowledge, that their report would be utilized by legislators in prioritizing research activities by campus, and by others in forming and/or changing their attitudes toward UNO, UNL and the other University system campuses. Their disregard for the possible ways in which their report certainly would be used evidences lassitude and inattention in detail, and indifference to eventual ramifications of the report.

Daniel L. Brodkey  
Senior, College of  
Business Administration

## To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the article, "Physicians disagree on nature of unborn," (Gateway, Feb. 15.) I think it is important to view both sides of any issue before a viable decision can be made.

However, the main basis for abortion debates is quoting Dr. Orr, "the argument for human life and when it begins is unanswerable." Since we are dealing with an issue as serious as human life, it would seem to me that the fetus should be protected unless we determine that it is not human.

The termination of any human life is too serious to be taken too lightly. If it is discovered that human life begins at conception, can we morally justify all the previous abortions because we were ignorant? Humans are the most intelligent creatures on earth, and with this intelligence comes responsibility, not cop outs or excuses.

Until we know whether the fetus is human or not, we should protect it as human. If the mother's life is definitely endangered by the pregnancy, then an abortion would be justifiable as self-defense. However, convenience is not a valid reason for abortion, nor any other reason. People have to take responsibility for their actions — in all phases of their lives.

Joann Derby



# WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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for complete detail see  
Backpage of this issue



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## Weekend Wire . . .

## Full that run with art

Seems like Omaha has the same things to offer nearly every weekend as far as entertainment. Movies, bars, bars, movies. Are you getting in a rut?

Well, try something different this weekend and go see some art. I know it sounds like one of those "cultural" things that snobbish "artsy" people do, but surprise yourself. You don't have to be an artist to enjoy art. You know the old saying, "I might not know art, but I know what I like!"

UNO students needn't look far. The 1985 Student Competition had its opening Wednesday at the Gallery here on campus. The annual show features UNO students in competition for cash awards in memory of Bertha Mengedoh Hatz.

As in past years, the exhibit features a variety of medias, from acrylic and watercolor paintings, to wood and ceramic sculpture.

This year's \$225 first-place award winner is Cathy Kantor, with a watercolor painting entitled "After Atget." The colorful piece features a group of coats, hanging on mannequins in a store front.

Second-place winner Pamela J. Lincoln took the \$200 award for her elaborate wood sculpture titled "Nuovo Classico." Third place, and \$175, went to Stuart Wheat for his watercolor piece "Patience is not in Style."

The annual awards have always brought out a variety of media, and this year is no exception. Among the more unusual entries this year include Kim Smulling's lamp, simply called "Kid." The \$50 award winner features a seated human



Scot Shugart

Feeling kind of lightheaded . . . Kim Smulling's lamp entitled "Kid" is part of the current UNO Gallery exhibition.

form, small and childlike, painted white and with a working lamp for the head. Other interesting pieces are Greg Casort's "Shovel Mask," a \$50 winner that incorporates the bottom of a shovel painted as a color filled mask.

David Eck's tapestry-like print "To Dudley" also captured a \$50 award.

The show also includes many other fine pieces, and can be seen weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is not open on weekends.

The usual reaction for people wanting to go see some art is to go to the Joslyn, 22nd and Dodge.

Right now, the Joslyn is featuring "La Vie Moderne: 19th Century French Art From the Corcoran Gallery."

This 41-piece exhibit incorporates a number of influential 19th-century French painters. These paintings express the artists' response to the increasingly "modern way of life" that swept through France during the period.

The show incorporates five broad categories of French painting with numerous examples in each genre. Landscapes, painted in the so-called "Romantic" style of the period make up the bulk of the first phase of the show. These paintings use bold colors which highlight nature; a response to the increasing urban growth at the time.

The next portion of the exhibit features rural-genre paintings, which highlight the people in their everyday activities. Next is a group of exotic-genre paintings, which showed scenes from other countries and other parts of the world. Such scenes had never been experienced by the bulk of French society at the time.

The fantasy-genre paintings in this exhibit show the artists of the period turning to historical texts, the work of previous masters and mythology for their subjects. The show cul-

minates with a number of impressionist paintings incorporating the French Modernism movement of the 1800s. Artists featured in this segment include such established masters as Pierre Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Claude Monet.

In addition to "La Vie Moderne," the Joslyn is also featuring a number of other special events this weekend and throughout the month. The rental and sales gallery is presently featuring sculptures by Emmy Gifford and paintings by Barbara Kastner.

Gifford's sculptures present a light, humorous touch in plaster and wood busts depicting cherub-faced figures in soft colors. Kastner's paintings are dominated by landscapes, incorporating subtle colors and definite lines.

Other Joslyn attractions include the works on display in the permanent collection, a large collection of Indian art, Omaha history and the continuation of the series of films in the Joslyn film classics.

This Sunday, the museum will feature another in its series of "New Wave-Down Under" films from Australia and New Zealand. "Puberty Blues" is an Australian "teen" movie from Bruce Beresford, who directed "Breaker Morant" and "Tender Mercies." The 1983 film has been lauded as one of the most accurate and best movies ever made about teenagers. "Puberty Blues" will be shown at 2 and 4:30 p.m. with a \$2.50 admission for students. The regular admission to the museum is \$2 for students.

—KENNY WILLIAMS

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# Budding group's future looks strong

By LYNN SANCHEZ

When International Studies major Ed Quinn recognized a need within his department, he didn't wait for someone else to do something about it. Last October, the 21-year-old junior conceived the idea of forming the International Studies Student Organization (ISSO).

Quinn and his two co-executive members, fellow IS majors Mirtha Aguilar and Deborah Sarbin, said they are pleased with the fledgling organization's success. In scarcely three months, it has attracted the interest of about 50 students.

However, there is a possible cloud on ISSO's horizon. Quinn said he and the executive members were "misinformed" about the procedure to become officially recognized by the University.

He said they thought if the organization's constitution was ratified by the Student Senate, the group would automatically be recognized. Actually, as he now understands it, all such proposals must be approved by Student Activities Director Joel Zarr. They are then passed to Vice-Chancellor Richard Hoover.

Thinking "everything was O.K." after the Student Senate approved its constitution on the 28th, ISSO went ahead with plans for a fund-raising party scheduled for March 8. However, Zarr sent the constitution back to the Student Senate after making various recommendations Quinn did not specify.

As of now, ISSO is not officially recognized by the vice-chancellor, but "we went ahead and had our party anyway," Quinn said too much time and money had gone into the planning to call it off at that point. Using money from their own pockets, Quinn, Aguilar, and Sarbin had produced and distributed 300 fliers to students majoring in foreign languages, geology, geography, and international studies. It paid off.

"We covered all our expenses and made money! I was kind of surprised," said Quinn. Seventy-seven people showed up that night, both American and foreign students.

The success of this first party adds to Quinn's confidence that the vice-chancellor will approve ISSO, and that this "being tangled up in student government red tape" is just a temporary setback. "I like to move forward," Quinn said, explaining why he refuses to give up planning, although ISSO is not yet recognized by UNO.

"One of the reasons I founded this group was because I knew there were many people who had an interest in things international, and



Scot Shugart

Internationally oriented . . . from left, Ed Quinn, Mirtha Aguilar, and Deborah Sarbin, the co-executive members of the newly-formed International Studies Student Organization.

there were many people with resources on campus that they could use — but they were just missing each other," Quinn said. "It was a source of frustration, making IS majors feel as if there was nothing for them on campus, which is not true." He continued, "One of the functions of ISSO is to provide that missing link between IS majors and IS organizations."

Sarbin commented that another reason for the group's existence was to "encourage everyone on campus to become more internationally aware."

Quinn said, "The reason we are called the International Studies Student Organization is because the IS (department) is our tie-in with academia. We want to be able to give information to anyone about internships, scholarships, when grad-school (representatives) are coming, or when job interviews will occur."

Aguilar, who is also the president of the (non-related) International Student Services (ISS), said she had also noticed a need for such an organization.

"While working in (ISS), I found few Americans involved with foreign students," she said. "I tried to motivate some Americans, but it didn't really work."

She said she hopes one of ISSO's functions will be to help foreign students unfamiliar with instructors and the curriculum to choose their classes.

Aguilar was born in Peru, but has lived in the U.S. to attend school since 1981. She said she empathizes with new students because "in the past I have had very bad experiences concerning what classes to take and all that."

In order to start ISSO, Quinn began by talking to students and staff members about his idea to determine the "marketability" so to speak of the group on campus. "When he found many people who expressed an interest, he then spoke to IS Director Thomas Gouttiere. 'He said, 'If you can do it, do it. So, I did it,'" said Quinn.

Gouttiere is now the group's "advisor" (the quotation marks are theirs). "This is basically a group for students to handle and students to promote. It's not heavy-handed with an advisor on you all the time," explained Sarbin.

For March 18, ISSO has planned a meeting to discuss future events and projects. Those will include International Week, April 22-26 and the International Banquet on April 28. Aguilar said one of the highlights of the International Week will be a performance by the RuHsing Chense opera troupe. The troupe will be visiting only three other universities in the United States, she said.

ISSO's policy is to accept any UNO student who wishes to join. All students must do to remain active members is to participate in at least one international event per semester.

"I think ISSO has a really bright future," said Sarbin. "It caters to an exciting international group."



## 'Into the Night' insulting

"Into the Night" is an utterly stupid romantic comedy with Jeff Goldblum.

Director John Landis wasted the talents of Goldblum and "bit" players Dan Ackroyd, David Bowie, Vera Miles, and Irene Pappas in a movie that is neither romantic nor funny.

Goldblum is cast as Ed Orkin, a lackluster aeronautics engineer suffering from insomnia and an unfaithful wife. His misery explores the depths of passivity. It's difficult to sympathize with a catatonic character.

Even when a beautiful blonde chased by four murderous villains jumps on the hood of Goldblum's car, he is barely roused from his stupor. The blonde, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, leads Orkin on a bloody tour of trendy L.A. From the marina, to Hollywood, to Rodeo Drive, all the hero has to say is, "I need to get some sleep."

The movie's humor is based on the premise Iranians are intrinsically funny. They need no motivation to slit people's throats, smash expensive objects and shoot dogs in elevators. The bad guys are bumbling stooges used to force the action.

Scenes jump erratically. The story line is practically incomprehensible. The movie should have been entitled "Loose Ends," since nothing is resolved or tied together.

The musical score swerves violently in style and tone like the brutal editing. B.B. King seems to once again have been worked over by the industry.

"Into the Night" shows some skin but is not sexy. Women are depicted as whores. The characters have no idea what motivates them. It certainly isn't love.

The producers of "Into the Night" apparently believe mixing car chases, scantily clad women and clichéd sight gags with the names of a few famous actors will guarantee a box-office money-maker. What they have turned out is an insult to moviegoers and the fine actors mangled in this piece of compacted garbage.

—PATTI DALE

## Classifieds

**Classified Ad Policy:** \$2.50 minimum on commercial ads. \$1.50 minimum for UNO students' student organizations, faculty or staff on non-commercial ads. Prepayment required except for University departments billed at commercial rate. Deadline: 1 p.m. Friday for Wednesday's issue; 1 p.m. Monday for Friday's issue.

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# Shreds' hot rock 'n' roll invites dancing and listening

I'm not as young as I used to be. Only 10 short years ago, I considered wearing suit and tie a cultural atrocity. Back then, a 12-pack would last me about an hour-and-a-half on a slow Friday night, and my friends and I measured our machismo in distance from the speakers at weekly rock concerts... the closer the better.

Last Friday night I stood at the bar of W.S. Walcott's, on 10th Street in my grey-wool three-piece, stuffing bits of napkin in my ears in the vain hope of saving what little hearing I have left, ordered my fourth light beer of the night and enjoyed some incredible rock-and-roll.

No, I'm not as young as I used to be, but I still know hot music when I hear it, and The Shreds qualify.

Walcott's was the debut performance for The Shreds, who, in the words of bassist Ken Fallon, had rehearsed "two, maybe three times." But all four members brought with them a load of experiential baggage from some of the best local bands in the area. Stuffed into the front

corner of Walcott's shotgun barroom, Fallon, drummer Greg Tschlis, and guitarists Joe Budenholzer and Andy Clark sounded like they'd grown up together.

Half the tunes hammered out by the group were written by Budenholzer, who first came to my attention years ago in the Wingnuts, playing tunes that would take most of his audience another year to catch on to. Since then, his lyric and harmonic terseness have been honed by work with the Magic Theater (he composed and/or played the music for productions such as *Astro Bride* and *Kegger*), and Disco Ranch.

The Ranch has been described as a "two-piece experimental laboratory" with Jerry Kazakavicious on keys and drum synthesizer and Budenholzer on vocals, an occasional guitar, and various masks and costumes. The group split up after a recent trip to California after Kazakavicious became dissatisfied with the addition of a drummer and second guitar to the arrangement. The drummer was Tschlis, and

the guitarist was Clark.

Tschlis himself has a long local background, including stints with the Flying Kangaroos and Digital Sex. His drumming is sparse and punctual, emphasized by the electronic Tamyas he recently replaced his old conventional kit with. It's a perfect counter-poin: for Budenholzer's lyrics.

Clark also played in the Kangaroos, as well as the Crap Detectors and the New Creatures. His brand of power-lead guitar is distinguished by the use of feedback and distortion for effect instead of camouflage. While other lead players hide behind their noise, Clark handles his with a refreshing relish that has all but passed out of the local club scene.

The band's music rides in Fallon's articulate bass. I say "rides in" rather than "rides on" because Fallon is one of those rare players who can string a bass line in, around and through a piece without sounding busy or muddled. He still plays in Oasis, a band he's been with for

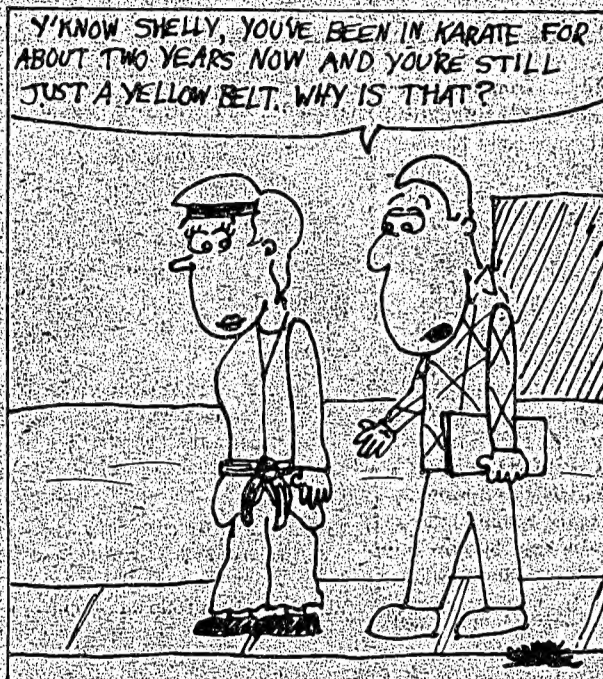
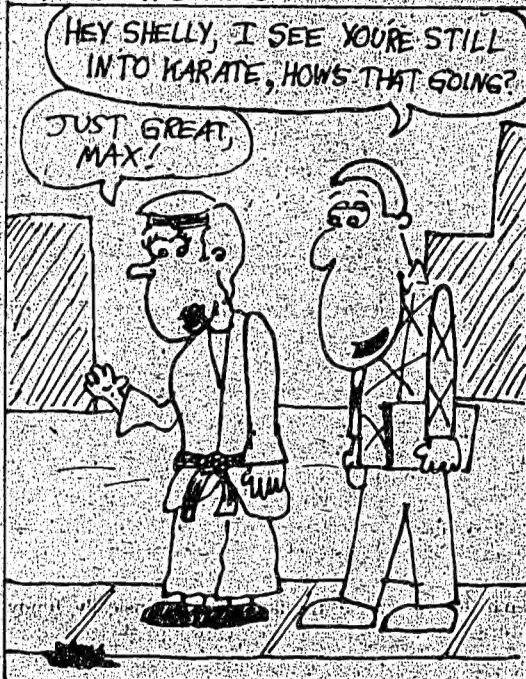
years, and in both bands his precision and sense of proportion is a key element.

The Shreds play a brand of rock-and-roll that invites dancing and listening at the same time. The beats are mostly in simple divisions of four, with rare mid-stream rhythm changes, but they're far from pedestrian, played fast and sharp. The volume of the band is monumental... not even my balled-up napkins had much effect. But part of The Shreds' combined experience is in the production of clean, well-separated sound. The volume is like Clark's distortion or Tschlis' sparseness... it's there for a reason, and it serves its purpose well.

The fact that The Shreds sounded like they did after only "two, maybe three" practices doesn't surprise me, knowing the players. It still inspires a little awe, though, and with four more dates lined up for this month, I may just have to have my suit pressed and invest in some cotton balls.

—DAN PRESCHER

## BIG MAX ON CAMPUS



## Page 'can do no wrong' during Firm's Omaha debut

With no more introduction than the dimming of the house lights, newly-formed supergroup The Firm took the stage of the Civic Auditorium last Friday night, giving rock music fans a two-and-a-half-hour reprieve from Omaha's recent concert drought.

The new group is headed by former Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page. The British rocker shares top billing with ex-Bad Company vocalist Paul Rodgers. Friday night, however, it was more than obvious that the crowd had paid their money to see Page re-create the orchestrated guitar sound which characterized his former group.

Page's popularity became apparent even before the show started, when he was spotted backstage, drinking what appeared

to be a pre-concert beer. The college-age crowd pointed, cheered and roared its approval as the 40-year-old guitarist waved back. From that moment on, the onetime heavy-metal king could do no wrong.

Page played his guitar with an almost absentminded display of nonchalance, strolling the barren stage with an uneasy stagger which seemed to indicate his knee-high leather boots were a bit too tight. At one point, a stagehand even brought out a folding chair which the guitarist occupied for nearly 10 minutes. The crowd watched his laid-back antics with undying attention, applauding a change of guitars as enthusiastically as they cheered his numerous extended solos.

Whereas Page could effortlessly work the audience into a frenzy, vocalist Rodgers seemed to struggle much of the evening. His singing often sounded lost midway between his distinctive Bad Company vocals and what appeared to be a lousy Robert Plant impersonation. He eventually found his niche late

in the show, however, when he picked up his guitar for a hard-driving version of "I Found Someone to Love." Guitar in hand, he was finally able to make his presence felt.

The Firm is rounded out by bassist/keyboard player Tony Franklin and drummer Chris Slade. Franklin, wearing oversized checkerboard pants and a giant mane of puffy-blond hair, looked like Rod Stewart on a bad day. Meanwhile, Slade performs with a shaven head which has become almost cliché among heavy-metal drummers.

Despite above-average talent and outrageous appearance, a lack of stage personality made Franklin strangely inconspicuous. His performance was primarily limited to playing his bass behind a seldom-used keyboard setup. When Franklin did emerge for his one solo, however, he performed with a reckless abandon which fully displayed his talent.

Slade, on the other hand, was little better than the average garage-band drummer. During his solo performance, Slade demonstrated very little extraordinary talent. Instead he utilized gimmicky chimes and a large gong to elicit applause. In all fairness, however, many of The Firm's songs left Slade with nothing better to do than lean on his drums and watch Page perform.

Most of the songs came from The Firm's self-titled album, as well as solo efforts by Page and Rodgers. The show also included painfully slow versions of the classics "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" and "I Just Want to Make Love to You." Much to the dismay of many audience members, The Firm performed no Bad Company or Led Zeppelin songs.

Friday night's concert was supposed to utilize extensive lighting and other such special effects. Unfortunately, it was primarily limited to a standard laser display and a dry-ice system which pumped less fog than the exhaust of an old school bus. It also included movable ceiling mirrors which seemed to serve no useful purpose.

Worth mentioning, however, was a fairly interesting "laser pyramid" which surrounded Page during one of his solos. During this particular segment, Page played his guitar with a glowing red bow while a green pyramid of light spun rapidly around him. The crowd loved every minute of it.

The Firm didn't even come close to selling out the Auditorium, however, the faithful who did buy tickets managed to call the group back for three encores. Strangely enough, the band used the same song ("Everybody Needs Somebody to Love") for two of those encores. If they were really desperate for material, I'm sure the crowd would have allowed a short rendition of "Stairway to Heaven."

—PATRICK C. STEPHENSON

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# Sports

## HPER anniversary marks fifth year quietly

By MIKE JONES  
and POLIDOROS C. PSERROS

Earlier this semester, the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building passed its fifth year of service to UNO.

It was in January 1980 that the \$6.9 million structure opened for classes after a 30-year dream was finally fulfilled. In 1949, Omaha University finished building the fieldhouse and turned its attention to constructing an adequate facility for health and physical education programs. At the time the fieldhouse was completed, PE courses were held in a series of 11 quonset huts on the southeast edge of campus (the site of the parking garage under construction).

Originally proposed as a 500,000 square foot, \$21.5 million structure in 1971, the HPER building went through a series of legislative cuts and delays before finally being budgeted at \$6.9 million in 1977. Richard Flynn, director of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation college, had first proposed a modern version of the HPER building in 1971.

The proposed site was due south of the fieldhouse, in the same area first slated in 1946. Because of budget problems, the University was never able to start the structure. The running and fitness boom of the early '70s helped to further its cause.

According to Sonia Green, HPER assistant professor, when she came to the university in the 1960s, teaching was the primary focus. Research and community service were considered of secondary importance. In those days, all activity courses were held in the fieldhouse, Green said.

"There were four or five things going at one time," she said. "It was so crowded and congested, it was a wonder nobody got killed."

Green said intramurals were held after athletics had concluded in the fieldhouse. Many times they lasted until midnight. Despite ID checks, many non-students used the facility during open recreation hours because it was almost impossible to cover all the entrances.

Since the building opened, Green said, the amount of research and public service has greatly increased. Kris Berg, a professor in the exercise physiology lab, said that before the HPER building was built, 75 percent of his students were in education. Now, he said, less than a third of those will be teachers. Berg said that many of the graduates find employment in the private sector.

Flynn pointed out some of the direct impacts of UNO on the community since completion of the HPER facility.

"We produce an awful lot of therapeutic recreation majors for this city and the state," Flynn said.

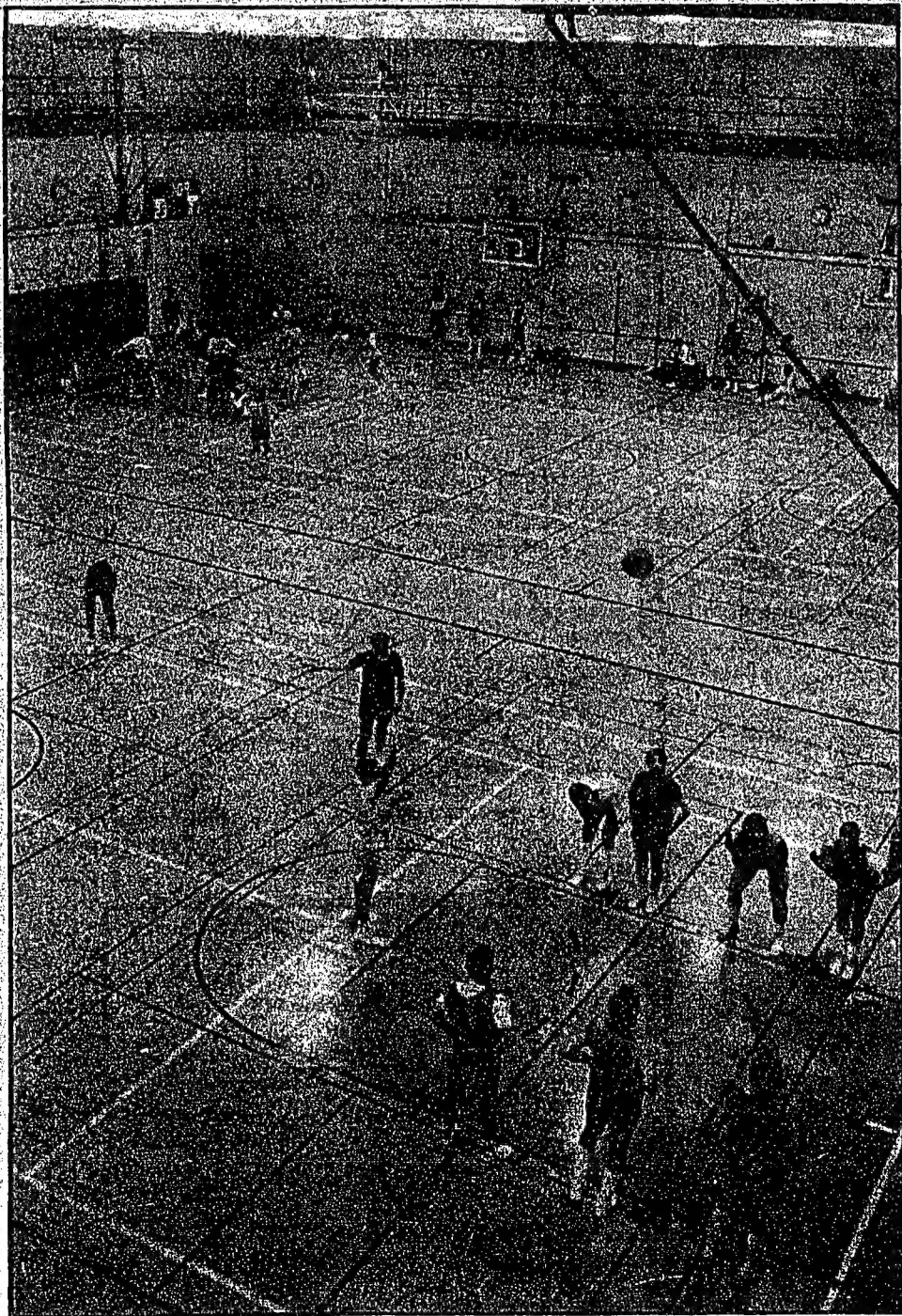
He also said many recreation and community health majors work with the specially handicapped. One of the UNO instructors serving the community is Michael Crawford. Crawford has sponsored the S.P.L.A.S.H. and PLAY programs for multi-handicapped persons in the metropolitan area. Crawford will be honored in April with a national award at the annual American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAPERD) convention in Atlanta, Ga.

UNO has served as the host of the state convention several times since the HPER building opened. The acronym AAPERD sums up to a large extent the scope of UNO's offerings. The school is consistently on the leading edge of the state in its endeavors in recreation, intramurals, education, research and community service.

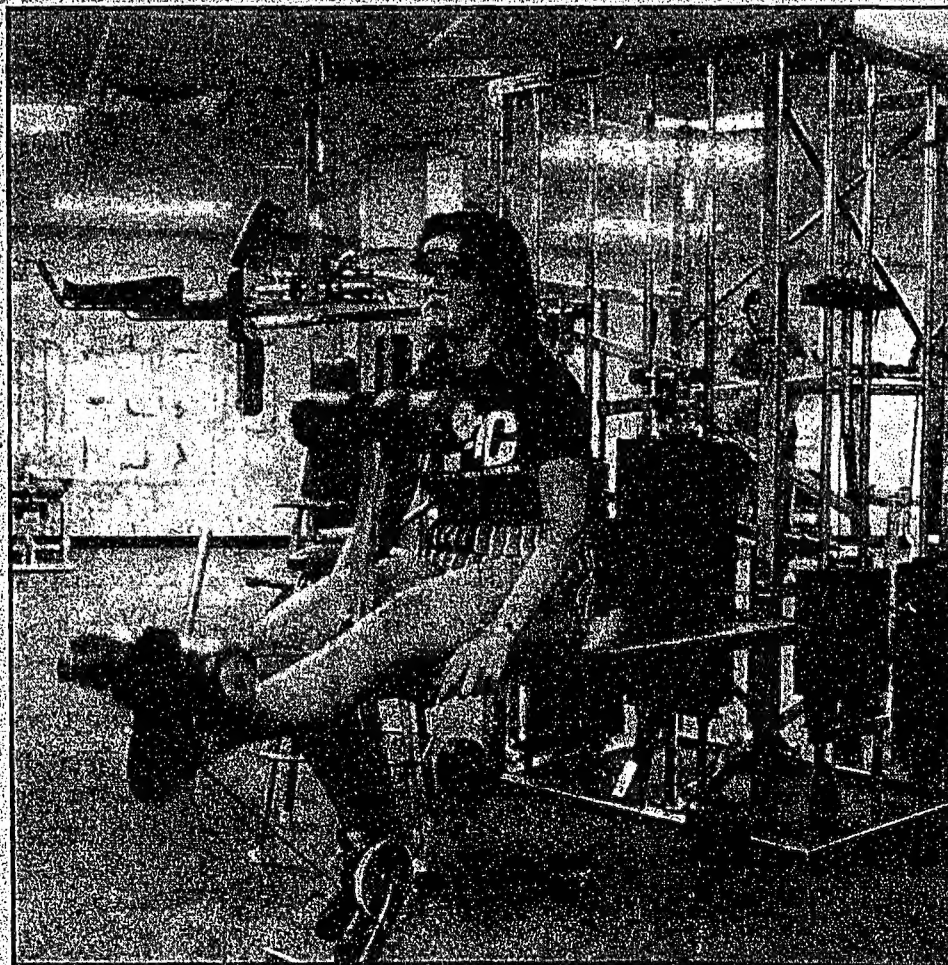


Archimedes principles . . . Mark Shirley, left, prepares for hydrostatic weighing while John Higgins gives directions. The tank is used to determine the lean body mass and is just one of the many resources available in the exercise physiology laboratory.

Photos by Scot Shugart



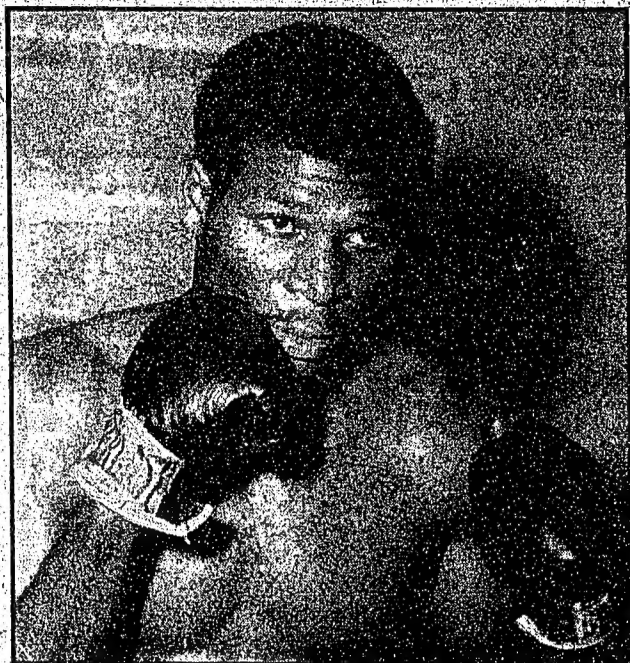
Home court action . . . Intramural basketball is one of the many activities available to UNO students. In the upper portion of the picture, students can be seen running on the elevated running track. Besides this double court activity area, there is a single court area and a gymnastics room. Twelve racquetball and two squash courts help to fill out the facilities.



Pumping iron . . . Becky Jergensen, a junior business major, works out in the weight room. The room features two Universal exercise stations, several individual weight stations and five bicycle ergometers.



# Olympian sees need for regulation of boxing



Silent eyes of a champion . . . boxer Ray Russell strikes an Olympian pose, circa 1972.

By SCOT SHUGART  
and MIKE JONES

The bandwagon of boxing opponents doesn't stem the respect Campus Security Officer Ray Russell has for the sport. Russell has first-hand experience of the hard, jarring world of boxing. The man fought in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games

as a light-heavyweight. Today, the 6-foot-4-inch former Marine sergeant keeps himself in fighting trim, carrying only two pounds more than when he fought in Munich.

Russell said that the recent American Medical Association's call for a ban on boxing doesn't strike to the heart of the matter. "I really haven't looked at it that in depth," Russell said. "Just off the top of my head, I would think that all they really need to do is clean it up. As far as stopping boxing, I think that's ridiculous. There's more injuries in football."

"Big money," Russell said, "is the reason that boxing is so hard to regulate. He said that with many of the major fights going for \$7 million to \$8 million, professional fights have a much greater rate of injuries because it is not as closely controlled as the amateur fights."

"Professional boxing is absurd," Russell said, "when you have rules that a guy cannot be saved by the bell when he's knocked down . . . that's the influence of money that really makes for no regulations in the ring."

Russell said that it was professional boxing which has come under the most criticism. According to Russell, many times in professional fights, the referee will not stop the bout until the man falls to the canvas.

An amateur bout, Russell said, will be stopped and the fighter given a standing eight count whenever he is dazed by a punch. If the man is still dazed after the eight count, the referee calls the fight.

"Amateur fighting is an American sport," Russell said. "It originated in America and it should stay here."

Russell said that when he was stationed in Japan, judo was a mandatory sport for all schools, even pre-school. The reason the Japanese require the sport, Russell said, is because they feel it gives kids the confidence to deal with and overcome larger forces, preparing the children for life.

"Boxing is the same way," he said. "It's a system of techniques that have proven workable."

"You don't go into the ring and go punch for punch," Russell said. "That's not the way boxing was meant to be."

Russell boxed for 15 years in the amateur ranks without any injuries. He started out his career in the Marine Corps and worked his way up to the Olympics. Russell won the Marine Corps title, the All-America title, the All-Services title and the Pan American Games gold medal in 1971. At the '72 games he suffered a controversial loss to a Russian because of the scoring by the judges. Russell said that he got more coverage for that loss than any previous fight he had ever won.

"An interesting thing about that," Russell said, "is that I had no idea that I had any talent in it (boxing). Somebody said they needed 11 volunteers, 'You, you, you and you,' and I was volunteered."

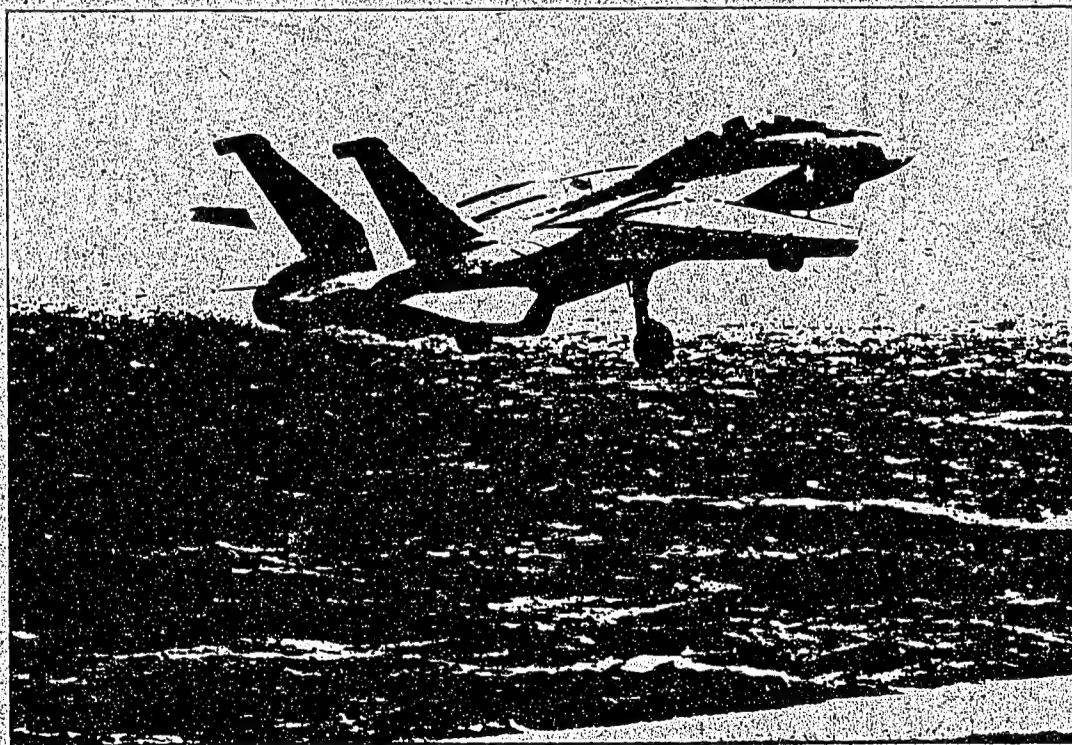
After he got his start, Russell said that he learned the strategy and beauty of boxing. He said his wife didn't like boxing when he first started, but as he taught her the techniques and strategies involved she began to enjoy the sport. Her attitude towards boxing was similar to that of many people, he said — she didn't understand it.

Russell said he still works out and has been working with a couple area boxers. One of them is the son of an Air Force colonel who had very little confidence in himself.

"The kid was very, very quiet and very shy," Russell said. "I started working with him, taking him through the techniques and moving him through the various phases of boxing. I worked with him for three weeks and you could just see the change in him as he mastered the techniques. His confidence really grew."

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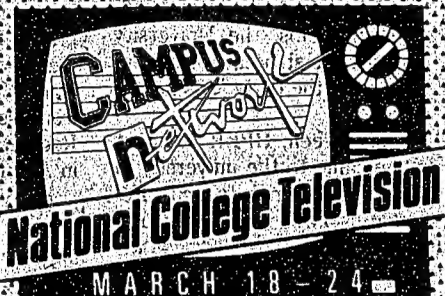


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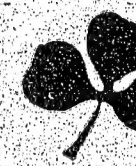
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